

The First Letter of St.
Peter
Chapter 5

1

To Elders and Young Men – 5:1-11

- 1 – “Elders” is a term used by Peter and Paul to identify the leaders of congregations. It would be much the same as “Pastor” today. In fact, this section is read at the installation of a Pastor. They were seen has have some authority over their congregation.
- Peter identifies himself here, not as an apostle, but as a “fellow elder” – although he is one who is an eye-witness of Christ.

2

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- 2 – The role they have is a “shepherd” – from which we get our term “Pastor.” Peter was specifically called to the role of shepherd when Jesus told him to “feed my sheep.”
- The concept of shepherd implies one who does not operate as a dictator, but one who lovingly cares for his flock. They should carry out their responsibilities, not as one who is forced, but as a willing servant of God.
- They are not to be greedy for money, but have the attitude of a servant.

3

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- 3 – The elders are not to “lord it over” those “entrusted to you.” Instead they should see the people as gifts from God who follow the elder’s example.
- 4 – Pastors are “under-shepherds.” The Chief Shepherd is Christ. And we live and serve in the expectation of His return. And when He does, we will all receive our crown of glory.

4

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- 5 – Peter now shifts to the “young men.” Probably not an office of the church, but rather those who are the younger members of the flock. They need to have a submissive attitude to those who are older.
- And all of them need to “clothe themselves with humility”.
- As an emphasis, Peter quotes Prov. 3:34 – the life of a child of God is marked by humility.

5

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- 6 – That humility starts with humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God, patiently enduring whatever life brings, waiting patiently for the time when God will lift us up.
- 7 - In the meantime we cast all our anxiety on Him, because we know for certain that He cares for us.

6

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- 8-9 – As we walk through this life, we need to be on the alert for the attacks of Satan. In the context, that would be acts of persecution on the Christian. We resist those attacks by standing firm in our faith.
- And remember, there are many, many others undergoing the same kind of persecution.
- 10-11 – In a kind of doxology, Peter assures his readers that God will eventually restore us and make us firm and steadfast. To Him be the power forever and ever!

7

Final Greetings – 5:12-14

- 12 – Peter wrote this letter with Silas (Silvanus) help. His purpose in writing was to encourage them to stand fast in the grace of God.
- 13 – “She who is Babylon” refers to the Church in Rome.
- Mark – not Peter’s actual son, but a son in the faith. This is the Mark who wrote the Gospel.
- 14 – Greet one another with the “kiss of love.” This was a common form of greeting in the eastern culture.
- And he ends the letter with a greeting of Peace to all.

8